Y6 Science Knowledge Organiser—Living Things and Their Habitats

Key Knowledge
Learn these key facts—key points in red

Living Things—What should I already Know?

- Animals can be grouped into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. They can also be grouped into vertebrates and invertebrates.

- Organisms can be classified and we can use a classification key to identify them.

- Examples of habitats (including microhabitats) and the organisms that can be found there.

- Living things depend on each other to survive.

- How environments are changing.

- The relationships between predators and prey.

- Food chains demonstrate the direction in which energy travels.

- How organisms have adapted and evolved over time.

Living Things—What I will learn?

- Living things can be grouped according to different criteria (where they live, what type of organism they are, what features they have). For example, a camel can belong in a group of vertebrates, a group of animals that live in the desert, and a group of animals that have four legs.

- A classification key is a tool that is used to group living things to help us identify them using recognisable characteristics.

- The Linnaean system, named after Carl Linnaeus, has different levels where the number of living things in each group gets smaller and smaller, until there will just be one type of animal in the species group.

Focus Scientists — Carl Linnaeus

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) was a botanist, zoologist and physician. He's most famous for simplifying the naming system scientists use to describe the millions of species on Earth.
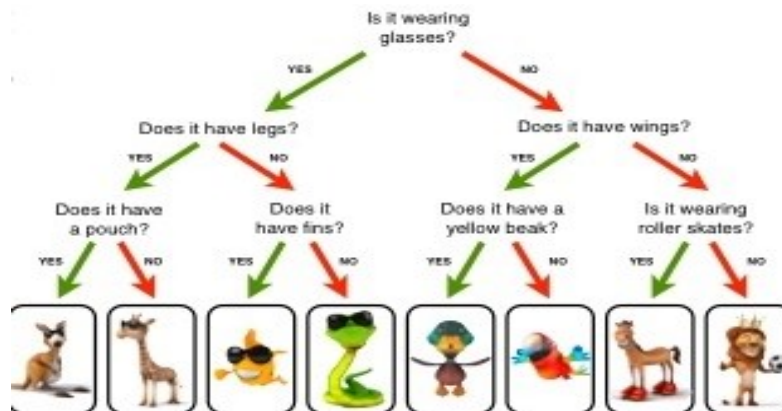

What are micro-organisms?

- Microorganisms are very tiny organisms where a microscope has to be used to see them.

- Examples of microorganisms include dust mites, bacteria and fungi, such as mould.

- Some microorganisms can be helpful in certain situations. Others can be harmful, and their spread needs to be controlled or contained.

What is a classification key?

A classification key is a tool that uses yes/no questions to group living things by different criteria.

Key Vocabulary
Understand these key words

Word	Definition
adaptation	a change in structure or function that improves the chance of survival for an animal or plant within a given environment
characteristics	any features that help to identify something.
classification	a way of grouping things based on similar characteristics.
classification key	a series of questions about the organism's physical characteristics.
criteria	a factor on which something is judged
environment	all the circumstances, people, things,, and events around them that influence their life
evolution	a process of change that takes place over many generations, during which species of animals, plants, or insects slowly change some of their physical characteristics
habitat	the natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives
invertebrate	living things without a backbone e.g. fly, spider, jellyfish.
microhabitat	a small part of the environment that supports a habitat , such as a
microorganism	a very small living thing which you can only see if you use a
organism	a living thing made up of one or more cells and able to carry on the activities of life (e.g. using energy, growing, or reproducing).
predator	an animal that kills and eats other animals
prey	an animal hunted or captured by another for food
species	a class of plants or animals whose members have the same main
vertebrate	living things with a backbone e.g. dogs, fish and humans.